



**SERVING
WITH
PRIDE**



A M V E T S

NATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS
4647 Forbes Boulevard
Lanham, Maryland
20706-4380
TELEPHONE: 301-459-9600
FAX: 301-459-7924
E-MAIL: amvets@amvets.org

31 January 2014

The Honorable Jeff Miller, Chairman
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf the quarter of a million members of AMVETS (American Veterans), a leader since 1944 in preserving the freedoms secured by America's armed forces and providing support for Veterans, Active Duty military, the National Guard/Reserves their families and survivors, we heartily offer our support for your legislation, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014, which would provide a mechanism for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for unacceptable performance.

Under the current, antiquated and morbidly dysfunctional civil service system, it's nearly impossible to dismiss or do more than slap the wrists of incompetent, ineffective and wasteful Senior Executive employees. This situation is no doubt largely responsible for the on-going backlog, as well as the problems of delayed benefits and inconsistent care experienced by many veterans.

AMVETS believes that no matter what ideas and policies the Secretary of the VA want to implement, without the ability to remove deadweight executives, their hands are tied. Veterans are tired of platitudes and broken promises, the only way to break this cycle of ineptitude and restore our veterans' faith in the 'system' is to eradicate the problem at the root – the Senior Executive level.

AMVETS fully supports any legislation which eliminates redundancy and inefficiencies within the VA or improves the care and services our veterans have earned through their service to this nation.

Please feel free to call on me for assistance.

Sincerely,

National Legislative Director
AMVETS
301-683-401
dzumatto@amvets.org